



MAIL STOP ISSUE FEE
PATENT
32860-000163/US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: **Harald KURZMANN et al.**
Serial No.: **09/914,193** Group: **2832**
Filed: **August 24, 2001** Examiner: **Marina Fishman**
For: **VACUUM SWITCHING CHAMBER HAVING AN ANNULAR INSULATOR**

MAIL STOP ISSUE FEE
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. BOX 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

June 14, 2004

COMMENTS ON REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Sir:

In reply to the Notice of Allowance mailed March 12, 2004 the following comments are submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6, 9-5 and 18 remain allowed in connection with the present application.

In the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance, the Examiner quotes language of only independent claim 1; language which is not present in either of the other independent claims 9, 10 and 18. Instead of limiting the comments to claim 1, the Examiner alleges that the comments apply equally to each of independent claims 1, 9, 10 and 18. Applicants submit

these comments to ensure that claims 9, 10 and 18 are not limited to comments made with regard to claim limitations of claim 1.

The Examiner's Statements refer to language which is present in claim 1, and which is not present in each of the claims. Thus, Applicants submit these comments to ensure that the Examiner's Statements do not, in any way, be interpreted so as to limit any of the other independent claims 9, 10 and 18 and the claims dependent thereon. As Applicants' claims should be limited only by the terms utilized therein, Applicants hereby submit these Comments on the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance in an effort to ensure that the claims are not improperly construed based upon limitations not present therein and/or to ensure that the claims are not interpreted so as to include any additional claim limitations.

While Applicants agree that each of independent claims 1, 9, 10 and 18 distinguish from the prior art and are allowable over the art, each of independent claims 9, 10 and 18 should not be interpreted as requiring the language quoted by the Examiner since this language is language of claim 1 and does not address limitations present in any of independent claims 9, 10 and 18.

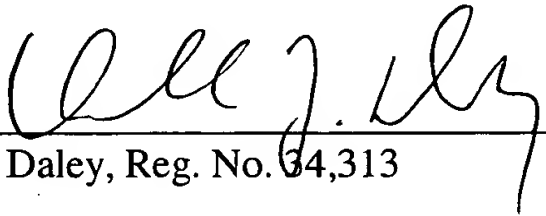
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Donald J. Daley, Reg. No. 34,313 at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By


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